

In the Claims

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) An ink container loading structure comprising an ink container provided with a container body in which ink is stored and an ink discharge port through which ink in the container body is discharged and an ink container loading portion provided with an ink container engagement portion in which the ink container is loaded and with which the ink discharge port of the ink container is engaged, wherein the improvement comprises that

the ink container engaging direction of the ink discharge port formed in an end face of the ink container with the ink container engagement portion is directed obliquely downward with respect to the horizontal and the central axis of the ink discharge port is directed obliquely downward with respect to the direction in which the upper surface of the container body extends.

8. (As Presented) An ink container employed in the ink container loading structure defined in Claim 7 in which the ink discharge port is provided in an end face of the ink container in the ink container loading direction.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) An ink container as defined in ~~Claim 9~~ Claim 7 in which the direction of the normal of the end face in which the ink discharge port is formed is parallel to the direction of the central axis of the discharge port

11. (Currently amended) An ink container as defined in ~~Claim 9~~ Claim 7 in which a vent hole for taking the atmosphere in the container body is formed in an upper part of the end face in which the ink discharge port is formed, and

the direction of the direction of the central axis of the vent hole is directed obliquely downward with respect to the direction in which the upper side of the surface of the container body extends

12. (As Presented) An ink container as defined in Claim 10 in which a vent hole for taking the atmosphere in the container body is formed in an upper part of the end face in which the ink discharge port is formed, and

the direction of the central axis of the vent hole is directed obliquely downward with respect to the direction in which the upper side surface of the container body extends.

13. (Currently Amended) An ink container as defined in ~~Claims~~ Claim 7 in which the direction of the central axis of the ink discharge port is parallel to the direction of the central axis of the vent hole.

14. (Currently Amended) An ink container as defined in ~~Claims~~ Claim 10 in which the direction of the central axis of the ink discharge port is parallel to the direction of the central axis of the vent hole.

15. (Currently Amended) An ink container as defined in ~~Claims~~ Claim 11 in which the direction of the central axis of the ink discharge port is parallel to the direction of the central axis of the vent hole.